

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04346 240914Z

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5653

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4346

LONDON FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CABINET REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS KISSINGER'S
PROPOSALS

1. MORNING PRESS HEADLINES " SMITH ENDS HIS UDI". CORRESPONDENT ANTHONY RIDER REPORTING FROM SALISBURY SAYS SMITH CAME OUT OF RHODESIAN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY EVENING 23RD SAYING, " THE CAUCUS HAS MADE A DECISION AND ACCODINGLY I WILL BROADCAST TO THE NATION TOMORROW NIGHT." RESPONING TO QUESTION OF WHETHER DECISION WAS UNANIMOUS OR NOT, SMITH SAID, " I WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE CAUCUS DECISION." SMITH DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED, " I WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER TOMORROW NIGHT." ASKED IF THE MEETING OF THE CAUCUS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE SMITH COMMENTED, " AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY IRRESPONSIBLE TALK OR ACRIMONY... I THINK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT DEDUCTION FOR YOURSELF AFTER LISTENING TO ME TOMORROW NIGHT."

SMITH'S COMMENTS INDICATED THAT HIS STATEMENT TO BE MADE

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04346 240914Z

EVENING 24TH WOULD BE CLEAR, POSITIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL.

2. CORRESPONDENT SPECULATED THAT SMITH'S MANNER IMPLIED THAT HE HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO EARLIER MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND THAT HIS PRESENTATION MUST HAVE BEEN CONVINCING TO THE RHODESIAN CABINET AND PARTY CAUCUS. CORRESPONDENT QUOTED RHODESIAN "BACKBENCHER" AS SAYING, " THE PRESSURES WERE TOO GREAT. WE HAD COME TO THE POINT WHERE REASON AND COMMON SENSE DICTATED OUR RESPONSE. NOW WE MUST DO THE BEST WE CAN." ANOTHER RHODESIAN FRONT MEMBER REPORTEDLY SAID, " IT WAS PRESSURE FROM YOUR PEOPLE (SOUTH AFRICA), BUT YOU WON'T DIMINISH YOUR PROBLEMS BY DITCHING US." AFRICAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MICAH BHEBE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, " THE RHODESIAN FRONT MP'S HAVE ALWAYS SHIED AWAY FROM SETTLEMENT BECAUSE THEY FEARED THERE WAS NO PROTECTION FOR THE WHITE MAN, BUT IT APPEARS THE KISSINGER PLAN CONTAINS THIS PROTECTION SO THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REASONABLE ARGUMENT AGAINST MAJORITY RULE." BOWDLER

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